

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Kalbermatter '978 in view of Terés '498, and the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalbermatter in view of Terés and further in view of Born '835, insofar as these rejections may be applied to the presently pending claims 2-7.

New parent claim 7 defines a crystal including a keyboard, said crystal comprising an upper face and a lower face, wherein said keyboard includes a plurality of keys, each key being associated with at least one electrode disposed on the lower face of the crystal for forming a plurality of capacitive sensors, said keys being activated by placing a finger on said upper face of the crystal opposite said at least one electrode, and wherein said crystal includes a thick zone and a thinned zone, the keys of the keyboard being arranged in the thinned zone.

Claims 2 to 6 remain unchanged except for their amended dependencies.

Applicant strongly disagrees with the Examiner's interpretations of Kalbermatter '978 and Born '835.

Kalbermatter discloses a telephone watch on which the number called is composed by a crown of the horological type, i.e., by the manipulation of crown 10 (see Figure 4 and lines 3 to 9 of the abstract). The selection of the number to call is, therefore, not done by the use of a keyboard actuated by placing a finger on a series of keys, as such keys do not exist in Kalbermatter. Numeral reference 13 of Kalbermatter designates indices or numbers marked on the dial of the watch (see the embodiment shown in Figure 1, and described in the specification

at col. 2, lines 28-36) or on the bezel portion of the watch (see the embodiment shown in Figure 4). When in Kalbermatter's specification (col. 3, lines 35 and 36) it is mentioned in connection with Figure 4 that indices 13 enable composing the telephone number, the telephone nonetheless operates in the same manner, with respect to the selection of the digit of the number to be dialed, as that of Figure 1 (see spec., col. 5, lines 5 to 9 and 28 to 36).

It is also seen from Figures 1 and 4 of Kalbermatter that the crystal clearly stops at the double circular line, the surface of the crystal being lightly hatched to represent the transparency thereof in both figures.

Indices 13 of Kalbermatter are, therefore, neither marked on the crystal nor are associated with keys as defined by Applicant's claim 1. Moreover, no reference to a thick zone and a thinned zone of a crystal is described or suggested. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's interpretation of Kalbermatter and in particular of Figure 4, is unrealistic!

As already explained in Applicant's previous Amendment, Terés does not disclose or suggest a crystal comprising a thick zone and a thinned zone, wherein the electrode of the capacitive sensors are provided in the thinned zone of the crystal. To the contrary, Terés teaches to arrange the electrodes of the capacitive sensors over the entire surface of the crystal having a single thickness.

Applicant does not fully understand the point that the Examiner tries to make in reference to Born '835, but, according to Applicant's understanding, Born '835 discloses a weather-forecasting watch comprising a crystal mounted classically in a watch case by means of a bezel

7, (see col. 2 line 33). On the other hand, Born does not show a thinned zone of the crystal comprising electrodes for forming keys as defined in claim 7.

Moreover, Applicant does not see any inner reinforcement extending under a thinned zone of the crystal in Born and does not understand the relation of such inner reinforcement with the support of the movement of the watch as well as with the problem of pressing several keys on the key board at the same time and the claimed invention as it does no attempt to address this problem.

In view of the above-noted deficiencies in the disclosures of Kalbermatter, Terés and Born, Applicant respectfully submits that the combined disclosures would not have (and could not have) rendered obvious the subject matter of independent claim 7 and its dependent claims 2-6, and that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the statutory rejections and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 7 and 2-6.

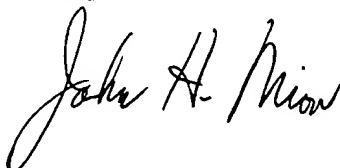
If the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/767,722

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and
Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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